



Opening Doors, Changing Lives

DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

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Group Home to Offer Overnight Respite

A new home designed to give caregivers a break could allow parents, loved ones, or caregivers, a chance to get away or take a long deserved vacation.

In June, Rochelle Center, a day-care facility for adults with developmental disabilities, will open a home in Madison to care for their charges overnight, allowing family members time to run errands, attend functions, have a date or go on vacation.

Being the caregiver of a special needs child requires a lot of commitment. It's very exhausting and The Rochelle Center has provided care for people with disabilities and the elderly for almost three decades.

The center, south of downtown Nashville, offers vocational and personal care training, work opportunities and family support. With a grant from the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency, it bought the three-bedroom home at 117 Beverly Drive in Madison. It will take in adults with special needs for a few days at a time.

Nearly 85 percent of the disabled people in Tennessee are cared for by family members, who need an occasional break from the demanding job.

The home named after Eleanor Lawson Willis, who helped start Rochelle Center, will be open to anybody but will give priority to the 160 families who already use Rochelle's services.

DMRS Sponsors Housing Resources, Options & Home Ownership Workshops

Over the past 6 months DMRS has coordinated and held statewide workshops for service providers, families, and independent support coordinators.

The panel includes Brian Dion, DMRS Director of Residential Services, Laura Swanson, Assistant Director of Housing Management with Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA), Carol Gish, Esq., West Tennessee Legal Services, and Michelle Flynn, Director of Tennessee Network for Community Economic Development (TNCED).

DMRS has teamed up with these agencies to provide resources to those seeking housing for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Areas covered include:

- 1) access to Section 8 rental vouchers, grants to nonprofits and low interest mortgages to individuals coordinated by THDA;
- 2) access to technical assistance and subsidies for individuals with developmental disabilities to buy their own homes and successes so

far in this cooperative initiative between DMRS and the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities, which is coordinated by TNCED and its 9 local partners statewide;

- 3) discussion of Fair Housing Act as it relates to individuals with

developmental disabilities regarding acquiring rentals, evictions, reasonable accommodations and access to free legal advice

statewide, when there are questions or complaints;

- 4) review of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grants and DMRS housing subsidies is given by Brian Dion.

During the last two years over 50 individuals with developmental disabilities have purchased their own homes.

If any group would like to have a workshop, which includes handouts of any or all the programs mentioned and relevant web sites, they may call Brian Dion at (615) 532-5756.



WEB POSTINGS

Announcements, draft policies, final policies and information bulletins all appear on our Web site. Recent activities include:

INFORMATION BULLETINS

BULLETIN NUMBER	BULLETIN SUBJECT	CONTACT PERSON	DATE ISSUED
01-15	Service Plans as Official Authorizing Document	Kellie McCain	6/12/01
01-16	High Blood Pressure (Hypertension)	Ruth Givens	6/12/01

The Tennessee Disability Training Network Announces

www.disabilitytrainingTN.org

A COMPREHENSIVE CALENDAR OF TRAINING EVENTS RELEVANT TO THE TENNESSEE DISABILITY COMMUNITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE WEB PAGE OR TO JOIN THE DISABILITY TRAINING NETWORK PLEASE CONTACT THE TENNESSEE DISABILITY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL OFFICE AT carole.moore-slater@vanderbilt.edu OR CALL 1-800-640-4636, TDD 1-800-372-9595.



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A publication of the Division of Mental Retardation Services

Don Sundquist, Governor
Dr. C. Warren Neel, Commissioner
Finance and Administration
Barbara Brent, Deputy
Commissioner, DMR Services

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access, and affirmative action. Contact the department's EEO/AA Coordinator at (615) 532-6580, the Title VI Coordinator at (615) 532-6700 or the ADA Coordinator at (615) 532-6700 for further information. Persons with hearing impairments call (615) 532-6612.



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The Mission of the Tennessee Disability Training Network is to create and sustain a mechanism for collecting and organizing information about training; promoting and disseminating training information; and working together to meet training needs through planning and resource development.

The Tennessee Disability Information & Referral Office is a good place to start when seeking current information about disability services.

The scope of information includes all disabilities and individuals of all ages. The Office publishes a Statewide Directory of Disability Services and Supports. It is available in three volumes; one for each region.

In addition to services available in each county, it includes articles on

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Housing Programs in Tennessee (federal and state), Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Social Security Disability (SSDI & SSI), Family Support Program in Tennessee, and TennCare.

All articles include local and state contacts for further information. The 2001 Directory of Disability Services and Supports will be available in print this summer and on-line later in the year. Updating and verifying community resource information on the database is an on-going process.

The Tennessee Disability Information & Referral Office is sponsored by a grant from the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities. It is located at the John F. Kennedy Center on the Peabody campus at Vanderbilt University.

Central and Regional Information Specialists

PERSON	LOCATION	PHONE NUMBER	FAX NUMBER
Larry Grimes	Central Office-Nashville	(615)532-6545	(615)532-9940
Kay Carlton	Memphis Regional Office		
Elizabeth Gerlock	Nashville Regional Office	(615)231-5033	(615)231-5150
Fred Coe	Knoxville Regional Office	(865)588-0508 Ext.108	(865)594-5180

Toll Free Lines For Complaints or Information, Call

Central Office-Nashville	1-800-535-9725
Memphis Regional Office	1-800-308-2586
Nashville Regional Office	1-800-654-4839
Knoxville Regional Office	1-888-310-4613

Web Site

Commission on Compliance/
Division of Mental Retardation
Services Web Site:
<http://www.state.tn.us/mental2/>

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